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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/790,003	SHINGA, TAKAHIRO
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Boyer D. Ashley	3724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 10/15/04.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4.
3. The drawings filed on 02 March 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

- Insert the following as the first sentence of the specification, --This application is a division of 09/838,313, filed 4/20/2001, now U.S. Patent 6,722,238.--.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claim 1, the prior art of record fails to anticipate or make obvious the claimed method comprising the steps of, *inter-alia*, sliding a tray of paper feeding unit out of an image forming device, the tray includes a paper loading unit, a paper feeding device and paper cutting device, wherein the steps include cutting the discharged tip portion of the rolled transfer paper using the cutting device before returning the tray to the image forming apparatus.

As to claim 4, the prior art of record fails to anticipate or make obvious the claimed method comprising the steps of, *inter-alia*, sliding a tray of paper feeding unit out of an image forming device, the tray includes a paper loading unit, a paper feeding device, paper cutting device, and a manually-operated feed switch, wherein the steps include feeding the paper using the feeding device actuated via the manually-operated feed switch such that a leading edge of the rolled transfer paper discharged from a discharging outlet of the tray.

It should be noted that the closest prior art references are that of Fuchisawa, U.S. Patent 6,091,928, and Kajita et al., U.S. Patent 5,375,494. Fuchisawa discloses a removable paper-feeding unit that includes a paper loading unit, a paper-feeding device, and a paper-cutting device. However, the removable paper-feeding unit of Fuchisawa does not have the step of cutting the discharged tip portion before returning the tray to the image forming apparatus; nor does Fuchisawa include a manually operated feeding switch. Similarly, Kajita et al. discloses a paper-feeding unit attachable to an image forming apparatus that includes a paper-loading unit, a paper feeding device and a paper-cutting device. Kajita et al., however, lacks the same manually operated switch and step of cutting the discharged tip portion before returning the tray to the image forming apparatus.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Boyer D. Ashley whose telephone number is 571-272-4502. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allan N. Shoap can be reached on 571-272-4514. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Boyer D. Ashley
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3724

BDA
January 9, 2005